

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15

STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SOE-02

OMB-01 DOE-11 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-10 /171 W

-----123128 021352Z /50

R 012207Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6163

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS OTTAWA 00507

USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGGS: ETRD, GATT, CA

SUBJECT: GOC IMPORT RESTRAINTS ON ACRYLIC YARNS

REF: OTTAWA 134

1. IN VIEW OF CONFUSION WHICH HAS ARISEN IN TRADE CIRCLES CONCERNING ADDITIONAL GOC IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON ACRYLIC YARNS, EMBOFF REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF DECEMBER 22, 1977 ANNOUNCEMENT, REFTEL, FROM DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE (ITC) OFFICIAL.

2. BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1976 GLOBAL QUOTAS ON IMPORTS OF 100 PERCENT WORSTED SPUN ACRYLIC YARN FOR MACHINE KNITTING WERE ESTABLISHED AND NOTIFIED TO GATT (OTTAWA A-298, APRIL 30, 1976 AND GENEVA 4015, MAY 25, 1976) UNDER ARTICLE XIX. GLOBAL QUOTA OF 2.5 MILLION POUNDS FOR CY 1976 WAS ALSO MAINTAINED IN CY 1977 AND NOTIFIED TO GATT (GENEVA 4389, JUNE 3, 1977).

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3. AS RESULT OF TEXTILE AND CLOTHING BOARD STUDY, REFTEL, GOC ANNOUNCED ADDITIONAL "RESTRAINT MEASURES" ON ACRYLIC YARN FOR MACHINE KNITTING AND NEW IMPORT LIMITS ON ACRYLIC YARN FOR HAND KNITTING. QUOTAS FOR 1976 AND 1977 INCLUDED ONLY ACRYLIC WORSTED SPUN YARNS OF 100 PERCENT ACRYLIC FIBERS WHILE NEW RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO YARNS CONTAINING 50 PERCENT OR MORE BY WEIGHT OF ACRYLIC FIBERS, THUS

BROADENING CATEGORY OF YARNS UNDER RESTRAINT. LIMITS OF THE BROADENED CATEGORY FOR CY 1978 WERE SET AT 3 MILLION POUNDS (COMPARED TO 2.5 MILLION POUNDS ANNUAL LIMIT OF NARROWER CATEGORY OF 100 PERCENT ACRYLIC FIBER CONTENT).

4. ACRYLIC WORSTED SPUN YARNS FOR HAND KNITTING WERE PLACED UNDER RESTRAINT FOR FIRST TIME BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1978, AND IMPORT LIMIT SET AT 2.4 MILLION POUNDS CONTAINING 50 PERCENT OR MORE BY WEIGHT OF ACRYLIC FIBER.

5. WHEN QUERIED WHETHER NEW RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN NOTIFIED TO GATT, ITC OFFICIAL IN OFFICE OF SPECIAL IMPORT POLICY REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN AS THEY ARE NOT "QUOTAS" BUT "RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM LEVELS" OF IMPORTS PENDING EXPORT RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS WITH KOREA ON MACHINE KNITTING YARNS (90 PERCENT OF IMPORTS ARE FROM KOREA) AND JAPAN ON HAND-KNITTING YARNS (50 PERCENT OF IMPORTS FROM JAPAN) AND NOT REALLY SUBJECT TO GATT ARTICLE XIX. HOWEVER, IN LATER CALL TO ITC, GATT DIVISION, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT GOC "EXPECTED TO NOTIFY GATT SHORTLY." ENDERS

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